

December 2, 2010, from injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol. He was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Khost Province, Afghanistan. He was 45 years old.

A native of Kirtland, NM, Sergeant Thode graduated from Catalina High School, in Tucson, AZ, and the University of Arizona. Sergeant Thode served as an officer in the Farmington, New Mexico, police department for 14 years. He was a senior member of the SWAT team and also served in the Army National Guard, deploying for tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

During his years of service, Sergeant Thode distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any job. Fellow soldiers respected his intensity, and they relied heavily on his leadership. Sergeant Thode was awarded numerous medals and awards, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

Sergeant Thode worked on the front lines of battle, serving in the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. Friends at the Farmington Police Department note that he was beloved by his colleagues. They remember Sergeant Thode as an effective manager who led by example.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Thode's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

Sergeant Thode braved the chaos of combat zone throughout Iraq and Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant Thode will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Sergeant Thode's entire family—I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in James's service and by your knowledge that his country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and former colleague of mine, former Congressman Stephen Solarz, who passed away late last month at the age of 70. I would like to take this moment to convey my heartfelt condolences to Stephen's wife, Nina, the rest of his family, and everyone else who knew,

worked with, and enjoyed Stephen during his life.

Stephen and I were both elected to the House of Representatives for the first time in 1974, members of a historic class of 75 Democratic freshmen who came to Washington in the wake of the Watergate scandal. Stephen remained a stalwart of the House, serving the people of his Brooklyn-based congressional district with distinction for nearly two decades.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Stephen was always attentive to the needs of his constituents, even going so far as to nickname himself "Representative Pothole" for his work on local issues. But in spite of this, Stephen's tenure was perhaps most clearly defined by his work on foreign policy issues. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee throughout his nine terms, Stephen demonstrated a strong and abiding passion for world affairs. Indeed, during his first month in office, Stephen went on an 18-day congressional delegation trip to the Middle East, meeting with the leaders of Israel, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt.

Beginning in 1979, Stephen took on some important leadership positions within the committee, serving first as chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, and subsequently as chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs. During that time, Stephen was absolutely committed to ensuring that human rights and respect for the rule of law remained key pillars of U.S. policy in those regions.

He was an uncompromising supporter of sanctions against the apartheid regime in South Africa; one of Congress's most vocal and persistent critics of the authoritarian government led by Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines; and a tireless advocate of peace in Cambodia. Stephen was also a strong proponent of diplomacy and engagement, becoming the first United States Congressman to visit North Korea in nearly three decades in 1980. And perhaps just as significantly, Stephen was a committed defender of the House of Representatives who worked extremely hard to carve out a more prominent place for that body in foreign policy discussions.

As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee myself, I had the opportunity to work with Stephen on a number of occasions. And I must say that I was consistently impressed by Stephen's tenacity, intelligence, and commitment to justice and democracy. In nearly everything he did as a Member of Congress, Stephen was always well-prepared, knew the issues inside and out, and was not afraid to challenge those with whom he disagreed. That is the Stephen Solarz that my colleagues and I got to know over the years, and that is, in my view, the kind of Congressman Stephen will most be remembered as.

Once again, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Stephen's family and all those individuals who, like me, had the privilege of knowing

him over the years. And I take this opportunity to thank Stephen for his many years of service to this country and his tireless efforts to create a more just and peaceful world.

REMEMBERING RICHARD HOLBROOKE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I pay tribute to the memory of my friend Richard Holbrooke, who passed away earlier this week. Richard was a masterful diplomat who brought his extraordinary skills to bear on some of the thorniest issues in U.S. foreign policy. Every step of the way, from his tremendous accomplishments at the Dayton Accords to his work as U.S. Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, he showed his deep commitment to our country, and to serving the greater good the world over.

I came to know Richard when we travelled to Africa together in 1999, when he was serving as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He had never been to Africa before, and yet on the trip he was able to thoroughly grasp the complex issues facing the continent immediately. His brilliance was apparent, and it enabled him to identify emerging issues quickly and push for critical action. On that trip our purpose was to focus on the crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo, but we also saw the incredible devastation of the HIV/AIDS crisis firsthand. Richard called then-U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and told him that the Security Council needed to address AIDS directly. When the Secretary-General responded that the Security Council only addressed security issues, Richard replied that this was, indeed, a security issue. He was right, and the Security Council's subsequent discussion was a turning point as the world community began to understand the depth and severity of the crisis on the African continent.

In the years since, Richard always made time to discuss foreign policy issues with me, and he always truly listened and wanted to understand my point of view, even when we disagreed. This was especially true of his work on Afghanistan and Pakistan. We didn't always see eye to eye about U.S. policy in the region, but he always reached out to me and solicited my views, and I was so appreciative of that. Those efforts on his part said volumes about him and his thoughtful approach to the complex issues he worked on with such commitment and such skill.

We had breakfast the morning after one of his last trips. I could see the toll his work was taking on him, but he was terrific to be with as usual. He was completely engaging and interested in my perspective, yet still managed to work the whole room, multitasking as always.

Richard Holbrooke was an extraordinary man of many talents who spent his life building a better, more just